

Local officials, anglers blast Provo River spill

By SHEILA SANCHEZ
Herald Staff Writer

PROVO — Local anglers and civic leaders responded with anger Monday to a hazardous waste spill that could have dumped hundreds of pounds of ammonium nitrate in Provo River.

"This is the primary fishing river in the state of Utah and to let truckers with hazardous waste come up and down here, it's a crime," said Terrence Davis, a Utah native who now lives in Lexington, Miss., and fishes the river regularly during the summer.

At approximately 3 a.m. Monday morning, a diesel truck carrying 45,000 pounds of the toxic substance crashed near the Sundance turnoff of SR 189, dumping an undetermined amount of the red glue-like material in the river.

"I don't think Utah is looking toward its future. It's looking too much toward the present and the profit, instead of the long-term enjoyment of everybody," Davis added.

Other anglers expressed concern that the ammonium nitrate

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Herald Photo/Brian Tregaskis

Environmental cleanup crews pump ammonium nitrate from a tanker that crashed into the Provo River Monday morning. The accident elicited calls for more control over truck travel through Provo Canyon.

SPILL:

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slurry spilled could cause algae and other small plants to bloom, depleting oxygen from the water and depriving fish and harming the ecosystem.

Fisherman Steven Whited said he has been predicting a hazardous waste spill in the river because of the canyon's traffic increase.

"I think it's a travesty what they've done to this canyon. In the name of progress they've torn out this beautiful resource," he said.

"They're always talking about trying to lower the environmental impact on the canyon as they quickly build more and push the canyon back, ripping it up and tearing it out," Whited added.

However, Utah Highway Patrol Trooper David K. Sheen, said he believed the canyon's traffic conditions have remained safe, but "if you drive this canyon like you're on the freeway, it's not safe. I feel we've had a pretty good record so far."

Traffic throughout the morning and mid-afternoon was delayed while cleanup crews tried to contain the spill. Most of the morning was spent pumping the chemical out of the tank into another diesel truck. Authorities said they would weigh the contents to determine how much of the ammonium nitrate was spilled.

"It's very unfortunate this has happened, but it's been handled very well," Utah County Fire Marshall Thomas Wroe said. "We responded immediately and we've

"They have indicated there is no immediate danger, but there's still scientific data being collected to make a sure determination," he said.

Glade Shelley, supervisor of environmental health for the City/County Health Department, said his agency would determine how much of the material was still in the river.

"We advise people not to swim in the river, tube in the river or eat fish in the river until it clears up," he said. "We're taking every precaution necessary so that we don't have further problems."

Wroe explained Buckley Transportation, which owned the diesel truck, was using Riedel Environmental Services, Inc. to clean up the waste from the river.

The truck's driver was transporting the material from Ireco Inc., to Hayden, Colo., for mining purposes.

Raylene Ireland, Provo City's mayoral administrative assistant, said Mayor Joseph A. Jenkins will ask the city's transportation commission to review the safety aspects of having trucks drive the canyon. "What we have is a valuable resource that's vulnerable. This is a wake up call ... because the accident could have been much more serious."

Julie Mack, a member of the Provo Canyon Coalition, said, "This was our worst fear and it's become reality. This accident has given us a glimpse of the serious consequences of truck traffic in the canyon. We feel the river is too precious of a resource to be ex-



long a beach Monday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Troops are providing s

ts increase in forest de



"The latest statistics confirm the alarming tendency of recent years," said FAO official Hollis Murphy. "(There is an) urgent need for improved conservation, management and sustainable use of forest resources."

The U.N. study said the world has 12.25 million acres of forests, but the amount of forest land destroyed annually surpasses the amount that is replanted.

Half of the Latin America's land is covered by forests, as is 33 percent of Asia and 27 percent of Africa.

Meanwhile, the European Community delegation today confirmed that the 12 EC nations would sign a declaration Saturday calling for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by 2000, EC delegation spokesman Lauren Jan Brinkhoorst said.

The EC had wanted that provision included in the global warming treaty prepared for the Earth

About 41.7 million acres were destroyed last year, compared to 27.9 million acres in 1980, the FAO report stated.

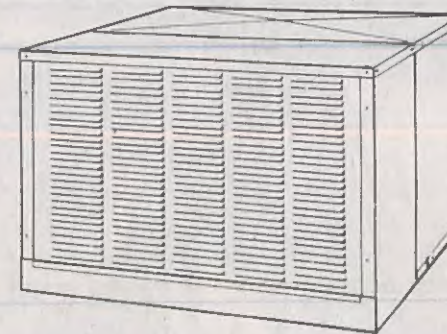
The United States has proposed increasing its aid for saving rain forests by \$150 million. The initiative has been slowed as poorer nations, which have most of the world's forests, want to control how the money is spent.



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